ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *DICHANTHIUM PALLIDUM* (HOOK. F.) STAPF EX C. E. C. FISCHER IN NORTHERN INDIA

Recently the authors came across an interesting specimen of grass, collected from Mirzapur, U.P., which was kept under *Dichanthium caricosum* (Linn.) A. Camus. A critical examination of the said specimen proved it to be *Dichanthium pallidum* (Hook. f.) Stapf ex C. E. C. Fischer, a species hitherto unrecorded from Northern India.

Another specimen (*U. C. Bhattacharyya*, BSD 18331) from the same locality was sent to Kew Herbarium for determination and the identity was confirmed by Kew vide their letter of 18.1.74 with the remark "Despite Bor's remark of the species being endemic to Nilgiri hills, it has been collected from West Bengal, 24 Parganas *viz. Clarke* 34467a (K) and from Nellore *viz. Bourne* 2433(K).

The said species is readily distinguishable from *Dichanthium caricosum* (L.) A. Camus by its creeping habit and solitary inflorescence.

Specimens examined: UTTAR PRADESH: Mirzapur, *U. C. Bhattacharyya* 12857; Mirzapur Kutwa, *U. C. Bhattacharyya* 13640; Sirsa, Mirzapur, *U. C. Bhattacharyya* 18331 (BSD).

U. C. BHATTACHARYYA
Botanical Survey of India, Howrah
AND
B. P. UNIYAL
Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun

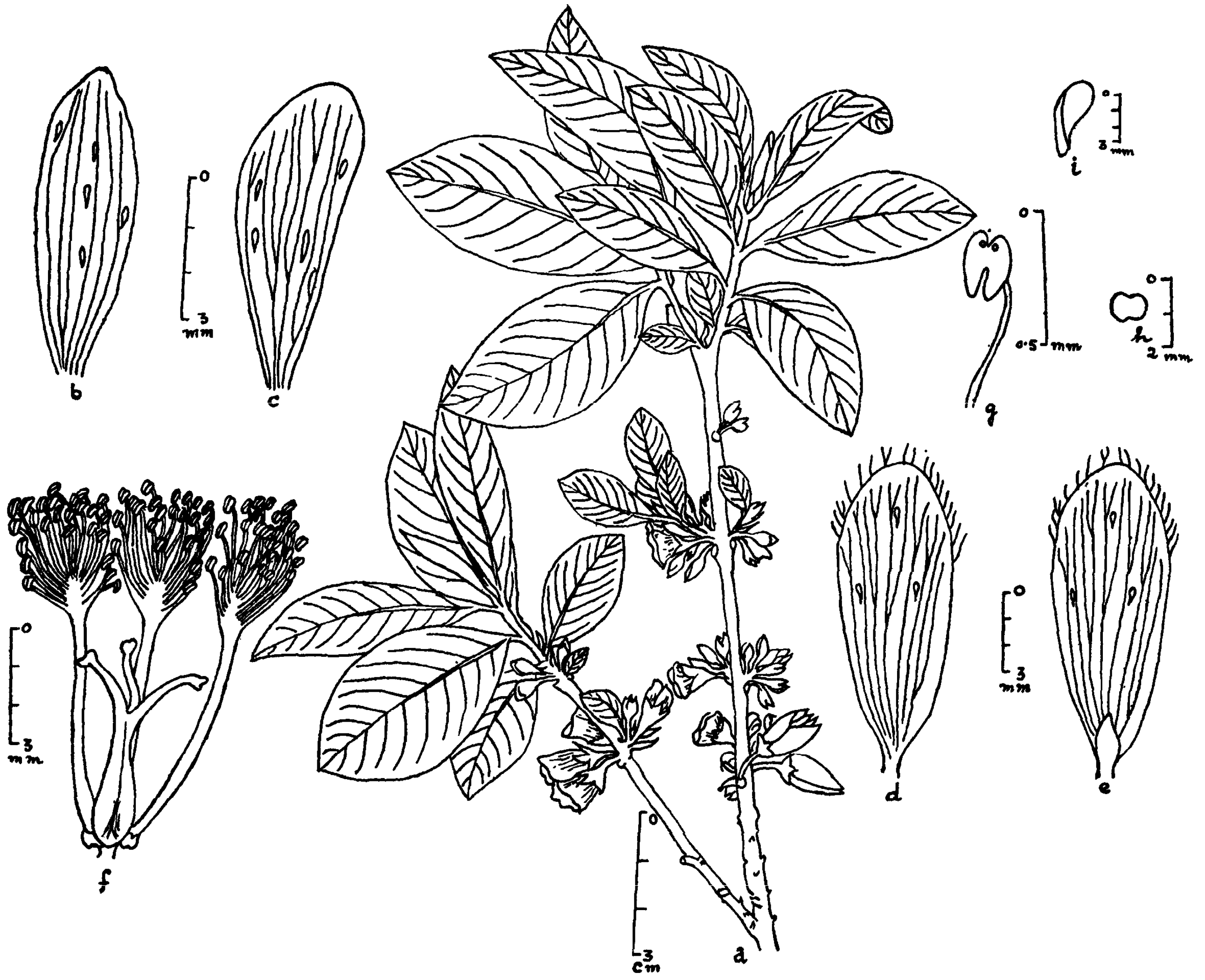
NOTES ON *CRATOXYLUM FORMOSUM* SSP. *PRUNIFLORUM* (KURZ) GOG. (HYPERICACEAE SENSU STRICTO)

The taxon *Cratoxylum formosum* ssp. *pruniflorum* (Kurz) Gog. (Figs. a-i) is so far known only from Burma, Thailand and South China down to Cambodia. This is recorded for the first time from India occurring in Priphema (25.45 N and 93.58 E) of Naga hills in Nagaland. A detailed description with relevant synonymy and references, brief notes on typification and affinities are provided.

Cratoxylum formosum ssp. **pruniflorum** (Kurz) Gog. in Blumea 15(2): 469. 1967. *Cratoxylum pruniflorum* (Kurz) Kurz in J. As. Soc. Beng. 43(2):84, 1874 et For. Fl. Brit. Burma 1:84. 1877. *C. prunifolium* Dyer in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 1: 258. 1874; Pierre, Fl. For. Coch. 1: t. 52. 1882; Gagn. Not. Syst. 1: 19. 1909; Craib, Fl. Siam En. 1: 113. 1925. Corner in Gard. Bull. Str. Settl. 10: 24. 1939. *Tridesmis pruniflora* Kurz in J. As. Soc. Beng. 41(2): 293. 1872.

Medium sized trees upto 15 m tall, pubescent to rusty tomentose when young. *Leaves* 4-8 (-13) × 1-4.5 cm, oblong to lanceolate, rarely obovate, acute to obtuse rarely rotund at apex; petiole 3-6 mm long. *Flowers* in axillary peduncles only, light pink to red, 2-2.5 (-3) cm across. *Sepals* 6-6.5 × 2-2.2 mm, oblong to nearly obovate, pubescent. *Petals* 1.1-1.25 × 0.35-0.4 cm, obovate, distinctly fringed at the upper half. *Stamens* in each phalanges 25 to 30; anthers 0.2-0.3 mm long, oblong with apical connective glandulose. *Hypogynous scales* 0.7-0.8 mm, short and truncate. *Capsule* 1.3-1.5 × 0.6-0.65 cm, ovoid. *Seeds* 5-5.5 × 2-2.5 mm obovate, winged unilaterally, 54-58 seeds per capsule.

Flowers: March-May; Fruits: June onwards.



Cratoxylum formosum ssp. *pruniflorum* (Kurz) Gog.

Figs. a-i : a. Habit. b & c. Sepals. d. Petal. e. Petal from inside, showing petal scale. f. Genitals and hypogynous scales of short-styled flower. g. Anther showing connective glands (scale showing measurement of anther only). h. Hypogynous scale. i. Seed.

Specimen examined: NAGALAND: Naga hills, Piphima ('Priphema') alt. 1050 m, 24. 4. 45, *N. L. Bor* 18463 (DD).

On examining the type specimen (Wall. Cat. 7276), it is seen from the label that Wallich labelled it as *Elodea 'prunifolia'* Wall. and this had been later corrected by him as *E. 'pruniflora'* Wall. which is *nom. nud.* Kurz validated this taxon by describing as *Tridesmis pruniflora* Kurz (*l.c.* 293. 1872) and later transferred to the genus *Cratoxylum* Bl. (Kurz *l.c.* 1874) and maintained the specific epithet *"pruniflora"* what Wallich had corrected in his Herb. specimen at CAL. ; but Dyer (*l.c.* 258. 1874) kept the specific epithet *'prunifolium'* as used in the Wallichian catalogue. Since Kurz (*l.c.*) validated the taxon earlier to Dyer (*l.c.*), so former has been adopted. On examining the Wallichian catalogue it is seen that Cat. no. 7276 provides the name *Hypericum prunifolium* Wall. instead of *Elodea 'prunifolia'* or *'pruniflora'* as written in the corresponding label of the type specimen.

Cratoxylum formosum subsp. *pruniflorum* (Kurz) Gog. is closely allied to *C. formosum* subsp. *formosum* and these two subsp. can be readily distinguished in the following way.

Plants glabrous ; hypogynous scale linguiform, 2 mm long ; capsule ellipsoid, 36-40 seeded ...	*C. formosum* subsp. *formosum*
Young twigs, pedicels and calyx rusty tomentose ; hypogynous scale short and truncate, 0.7-0.8 mm long ; capsule ovoid, 54-58 seeded ...	*C. formosum* subsp. *pruniflorum*

Gogelein (*loc. cit.* 469. 1967) pointed out that the distribution of *Cratoxylum formosum* ssp. *formosum* in Andaman is "rather rare in South Andaman" Sec. Kurz, which seems to be contradictory because the author examined quite good number of specimens from different localities in South Andaman.

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S. N. BISWAS
Botanical Survey of India, Howrah

A NOTE ON THE GENUS *ALLOMORPHIA* BL. (MELASTOMATACEAE) AND A NEW SPECIES FROM MALAYA

In this note the generic concept of *Allomorphia* Bl. and *Oxyspora* DC. is explained and delimited. *Allomorphia perkensis* Nayar is a new species reported from Malaya.

Blume (1831) established the genus *Allomorphia* on the basis of *Melastoma exigum* Jack from Paulu Pinang, Malaya, characterised by its oblong-tubular calyx tube, eight subequal, linear, inappendiculate anthers and ovate-oblong capsules. Naudin (1851) accepted Blume's genus and with doubt added *A. pauciflora* Benth. which Guillaumin (1913) later appropriately transferred to the genus *Blastus*. Triana (1871), in addition to *A. exigua* and *A. pauciflora,* accepted J. D. Hooker's two species, *A. umbellulata* and *A. griffithii,* and transferred with doubt *Anplectrum ovalifolium* A. Gray to *Allomorphia.* From this it is seen, that by introducing some of the above mentioned species, the generic concept was further widened without any relation to Blume's type species. Cogniaux (1891) added to the confusion on the generic delimitation by describing pentamerous species from New Guinea, *i.e., A. macrophylla* Cogn., *A. cordifolia* Cogn. Cogniaux's (*l.c.*) list of fifteen species is an odd mixture of different taxa and some of the species described have no common generic relationships. Cogniaux (1891) proposed two sections in the genus *Allomorphia* : i. *Euallomorphia* characterised by tetramerous flowers and subulate anthers; ii. *Hollrungiophyta* characterised by pentamerous flowers and oblong-linear anthers. Krasser (1893) accepted Cogniaux's two sections but Mansfeld (1925), following the suggestion of Ridley (1911), appropriately transferred Cogniaux's section *Hollrungiophyta* to the genus *Poikilogyne* Bak. f.

Stapf (1895) appropriately established a new genus *Pomatostoma* on the basis of *A. sertulifera* Cogn. characterised by its "peculiar mode of dehiscence". (*i.e.*, the top of the capsule is transferred into a thick umbonate lid which falls off when mature ex-